

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) Telecommunications apparatus between a voice frame network gatekeeper and an intelligent peripheral, the apparatus comprising:

a voice frame network connection for coupling a gatekeeper to an intelligent peripheral;

a protocol over said connection that provides supplemental services messaging between the gatekeeper and the intelligent peripheral, said protocol conveying a request from the gatekeeper to the intelligent peripheral and a response from the intelligent peripheral to the gatekeeper; and

a command structure embedded in such request/response protocol, said command structure including a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the gatekeeper is responsive.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said protocol and said command structure comply with International H.323 and H.225 standards.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said command structure further includes play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which the intelligent peripheral is responsive.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 3, wherein~~ Telecommunications apparatus between a voice frame network gatekeeper and an intelligent peripheral, the apparatus comprising:

a voice frame network connection for coupling a gatekeeper to an intelligent peripheral;

a protocol over said connection that provides supplemental services messaging between the gatekeeper and the intelligent peripheral, said protocol conveying a request from the gatekeeper to the intelligent peripheral and a response from the intelligent peripheral to the gatekeeper; and

a command structure embedded in such request/response protocol, said command structure including a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the gatekeeper is responsive;

wherein said protocol and said command structure comply with International H.323 and H.225 standards, said command structure further includes play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which the intelligent peripheral is responsive, and said command structure further includes a flex-parameter-block, play-recorded-audio-and-terminate-call, and play-recorded-audio-using-specified-script sequences to which the gatekeeper is responsive, wherein said flex-parameter-block sequence invokes in the gatekeeper a variable response.

5. (Original) Telecommunications apparatus for coordinating a voice frame network gatekeeper and intelligent peripheral, the apparatus comprising:

an invocation mechanism within a gatekeeper for setting a defined task to an intelligent peripheral via in-band signaling, and

a performance mechanism within the intelligent peripheral responsive to said invocation mechanism for performing the defined task,

wherein said invocation mechanism and said performance mechanism comply with International H.323 and H.450 standards.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said invocation mechanism acts under International H.450 standard as a supplemental services provider (SSP) and wherein said performance mechanism acts under International H.450 standard as an intelligent peripheral.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said invocation mechanism provides for a call-transfer sequence to which said performance mechanism is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line the number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said invocation mechanism provides for play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which said performance mechanism is responsive.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said invocation mechanism further provides for a call-transfer sequence to which said performance mechanism is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line the number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 8, wherein~~ Telecommunications apparatus for coordinating a voice frame network gatekeeper and intelligent peripheral, the apparatus comprising:

an invocation mechanism within a gatekeeper for setting a defined task to an intelligent peripheral via in-band signaling, and

a performance mechanism within the intelligent peripheral responsive to said invocation mechanism for performing the defined task,

wherein said invocation mechanism and said performance mechanism comply with International H.323 and H.450 standards, said invocation mechanism provides for play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which said performance mechanism is responsive, and said invocation mechanism further provides for flex-parameter-block, play-recorded-audio-and-terminate-call, and play-recorded-audio-using-specified-script sequences to which said performance mechanism is responsive, wherein said flex-parameter-block sequence invokes in the performance mechanism a ~~variable~~ response.

11. (Currently amended) A method of interfacing a voice frame network gatekeeper and an interactive voice response unit (IVR), the method comprising:

configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under International H.450 standard;

configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International H.450 standard;

first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the IVR over the voice frame network ~~in accordance with a defined protocol~~; and

second conveying responses to the requests from the IVR to the gatekeeper over the voice frame network ~~in accordance with a defined protocol~~.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said first conveying includes invoking a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the IVR is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line the number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said first conveying includes invoking play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which the IVR is responsive.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 11,~~ A method of interfacing a voice frame network gatekeeper and an interactive voice response unit (IVR), the method comprising:

configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under International H.450 standard;

configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International H.450 standard;

first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the IVR over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol; and

second conveying responses to the requests from the IVR to the gatekeeper over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol, wherein said first conveying includes invoking flex-parameter-block, play-recorded-audio-and-terminate-call, and play-recorded-audio-using-specified-script sequences to which the IVR is responsive, wherein said flex-parameter-block sequence invokes in the IVR a variable response.

15. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program for interfacing a voice frame network gatekeeper and an interactive voice response unit (IVR), the program comprising:

instructions for configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under International H.450 standard;

instructions for configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International H.450 standard;

instructions for first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the IVR over the voice frame network ~~in accordance with a defined protocol;~~ and

instructions for second conveying responses to requests from the IVR to the gatekeeper over the voice frame network ~~in accordance with a defined protocol.~~

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 15, wherein said instructions for first conveying include instructions for invoking a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the IVR is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 16, wherein said instructions for first conveying further include instructions for invoking play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which the IVR is responsive.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 17, wherein~~ A computer-readable medium containing a program for interfacing a voice frame network gatekeeper and an interactive voice response unit (IVR), the program comprising:

instructions for configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under International H.450 standard;

instructions for configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International H.450 standard;

instructions for first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the IVR over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol; and

instructions for second conveying responses to requests from the IVR to the gatekeeper over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol;

wherein said instructions for first conveying include instructions for invoking a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the IVR is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence, said instructions for first conveying further include instructions for invoking play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which the IVR is responsive, and said instructions for first conveying further include instructions for invoking flex-parameter-bloc, play-recorded-audio-and-terminate-call, and play-recorded-audio-using-specified script sequences to which the IVR is responsive, wherein said flex-parameter-block sequence invokes in the IVR a variable response.

19. (Currently amended) Apparatus for interfacing a voice frame network gatekeeper and an interactive voice response unit (IVR), the program comprising:

- means for configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under International H.450 standard;
- means for configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International H.450 standard;
- means for first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the IVR over the voice frame network ~~in accordance with a defined protocol~~, said first conveying means including software instructions resident on a computer-readable medium and executable by a processor within the gatekeeper; and
- means for second conveying responses to requests from the IVR to the gatekeeper over the voice frame network ~~in accordance with a defined protocol~~, said second conveying means including software instructions resident on a computer-readable medium and executable by a processor within the IVR.